ABSTRACT

POPULATION ECOLOGY OF HERMANN'S TORTOISE (*Testudo hermanni*) IN TURKEY.

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In this study, population ecology of Hermann's tortoise (*Testudo hermanni*) was investigated. A total of 37 days were spent on the field with 5 visits during April-August 2014. We measured totally 100 (53 ♂♂ 28 ♀♀ 18 juvenil and 1 unknown) *T. hermanni*. The mean carapace length was 157±2.5 mm in males and 179.9 ±5.8 in females. The mean weight was 910 ±36 in males and 1299.4 ±9 in females The females were larger and heavier than males. The frequency distribution of age was skewed to 11-15(%) age group. The mean body temperature was 26.1±0.6 ^{o}C in males and 25.96±0.9 ^{o}C in females. The individuals were mostly encountered between the hours 10.01-12.00 (%). Most of the individuals were encountered during active movement (%). The factors negatively threatening the population in the region were agricultural pesticide usage, destruction of habitats and industrial regions.

Key Words: Chelonia, Testudinidae**,** *Testudo hermanni*, Hermann's Tortoise, Thrace Region, population ecology